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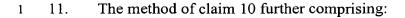


What is claimed is:

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- sending a message to a receiving module, the message comprising at least one
- 3 function supported by a sending module along with at least one corresponding function
- 4 pointer to the at least one function supported by the sending module;
- receiving from the receiving module a message including at least one function
- 6 supported by the receiving module along with at least one corresponding function
- 7 pointer to the at least one function supported by the receiving module; and
- 8 communicating with the receiving module using the at least one function
- 9 pointer to the at least one function supported by the receiving module.
 - 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 determining functions that are called directly, by the sending module and the
- 3 receiving module; and
- building an interface using the functions that are called directly, by the sending
- 5 module and the receiving module.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating with the receiving
- 2 module using messages if the receiving module does not support a particular function.
 - 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending module and the receiving module
- 2 are locally disposed on a bus.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the bus is at least one of a peripheral component
- 2 interconnect (PCI) bus, an EISA bus, a PCIX bus, a 3GIO bus, a hyper-transport bus,
- 3 and an infiniband architecture.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving module communicates with at
- 2 least one of a controller, and a storage device.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the controller is a network controller.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending module and the receiving module
- 2 communicate with each other via a first processor.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the first processor communicates with a second
- 2 processor via a bus.
- 1 10. A method comprising:
- 2 receiving a message from a sending module, the message comprising of at least
- 3 one function supported by a sending module along with at least one corresponding
- 4 function pointer to the at least one function supported by the sending module;
- sending the sending module a message including at least one function supported
- 6 by a receiving module along with at least one corresponding function pointer to the at
- 7 least one function supported by the receiving module; and
- 1 communicating with the sending module using the function pointer to the at
- 2 least one function supported by the receiving module.



- determining functions are called directly, by the sending module and the
- 3 receiving module; and
- building an interface using the functions that can be called directly, by the
- sending module and the receiving module.
- 1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising communicating with the sending
- 2 module using messages if the receiving module does not support a particular function.
- 1 13. An apparatus comprising:
- .2 a bus;
- a processor communicatively coupled with the bus, said processor to
- send a message to a receiving module, the message comprising at least one
- function supported by a sending module along with at least one corresponding function
- 6 pointer to the at least one function supported by the sending module;
- 7 receive from the receiving module a message including at least one function
- supported by the receiving module along with at least one corresponding function
- 9 pointer to the at least one function supported by the receiving module; and
- 10 communicate with the receiving module using the function pointer to the at least
- one function supported by the receiving module.
- 1 14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising said processor to
- determine functions that are called directly, by the sending module and the
- 3 receiving module; and



- build an interface using the functions that are called directly, by the sending
- 5 module and the receiving module.
- 1 15. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising said processor to communicate
- 2 with the receiving module using messages if the receiving module does not support a
- 3 particular function.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sending module and the receiving
- 2 module are locally disposed on a bus.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the receiving module communicates with at
- 2 least one of a controller, and a storage device.
- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the controller is a network controller.
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the processor communicates with a second
- 2 processor via a bus.
- 1 20. An article of manufacture comprising:
- a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a
- 3 machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising
- 4 sending a message to a receiving module, the message comprising at least one
- 5 function supported by a sending module along with at least one corresponding function
- 6 pointer to the at least one function supported by the sending module;



- 7 receiving from the receiving module a message including at least one function
- 8 supported by the receiving module along with at least one corresponding function
- 9 pointer to the at least one function supported by the receiving module; and
- 10 communicating with the receiving module using the at least one function pointer to the
- at least one function supported by the receiving module.
- 1 21. The article of manufacture as in claim 20, further comprising instructions for
- determining functions that can be called directly, by the sending module and the
- 3 receiving module; and
- building an interface using the functions that can be called directly, by the
- sending module and the receiving module.
- 1 22. The article of manufacture as in claim 20, further comprising instructions for
- 2 communicating with the receiving module using messages if the receiving module does
- 3 not support a particular function.
- 1 23. The article of manufacture as in claim 20, wherein said instructions for
- 2 communicating with the receiving module using the at least one function pointer to the
- at least one function supported by the receiving module includes further instructions for
- 4 communicating with at least one of a controller, and a storage device.
- 1 24. An article of manufacture comprising:
- a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a
- 3 machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising



- 4 receiving a message from a sending module, the message comprising at least
- one function supported by a sending module along with a corresponding function
- 6 pointer to the at least one function supported by the sending module;
- sending to the sending module a message including at least one function
- 8 supported by the receiving module along with a corresponding function pointers to the
- 9 at least one function supported by the receiving module; and
- communicating with the sending module using the function pointer to the at least one
- 11 function supported by the receiving module.
- 1 25. The article of manufacture as in claim 24, further comprising instructions for
- determining functions that can be called directly, by the sending module and the
- 3 receiving module; and
- building an interface using the functions that can be called directly, by the
- 5 sending module and the receiving module.
- 1 26. The article of manufacture as in claim 24, further comprising instructions for
- 2 communicating with the sending module using messages if the receiving module does
- 3 not support a particular function.